

REMARKS

Claims 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,585,590 to Malone in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0171986 to Itkis and U.S. Patent No. 6,955,604 to Graves et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) for at least the reason that the combination of Malone and Itkis does not disclose or teach each and every element of independent claims 20 and 24 and Graves fails to cure such deficiencies. Applicant's presently pending claims require retrieving video segments from a library that correspond to a winning sequence of drawn bingo numbers. The video segments corresponding to the winning sequence of drawn bingo numbers are compiled into a bingo video. The bingo video is transmitted for viewing. For example, independent claim 24 requires comparing a sequence of drawn bingo numbers to a matrix of bingo game numbers to determine at least one winning ticket and a winning sequence of drawn bingo numbers. Video segments corresponding to the winning sequence of numbers are retrieved from a library and compiled into a single bingo game video. The bingo game video is transmitted for viewing.

Malone discloses a method of operating a bingo game using a game server on a network. However, Malone (either standing alone or in combination with Itkis), fails to disclose a bingo game system or method that requires retrieving video segments from a library that correspond to a winning sequence of drawn bingo numbers; compiling the video segments into a bingo video; and transmitting the bingo video for viewing.

Graves fails to correct the deficiencies of Malone. Graves is directed to a system and method for providing an audio visual representation of a game among widely

separated participants. In contrast to the present invention, however, Graves does not retrieve video segments from a library that correspond to a winning sequence of drawn bingo numbers. Rather, Graves only retrieves one video segment corresponding to a single drawn bingo number at a time. Graves displays each called bingo number consecutively until a winner is determined. The disclosure of Graves explicitly provides:

As each number is drawn or electronically determined, it is transmitted to the game director's workstation and immediately sent via the Internet 12 (as seen in Figure 1) to all participating remote locations.

As each number is received by a client computer at a remote location, a stored video clip is played showing the drawing of that number.

Whenever a player at a remote location claims to have a winning card, a game director, upon receiving notification of this event, stops the ball call sequence until the win can be verified as described above.

(Graves, col. 5, line 61 to col. 6, line 1) (emphasis added). In this regard, Graves fails to teach retrieving video segments from a library that correspond to a winning sequence of drawn numbers. Moreover, Graves does not teach compiling such individual video segments into a bingo game video or transmitting the bingo game video for viewing by players. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the combination of Malone, Itkis, and Graves fails to disclose each and every element of pending claims 20-28.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) for at least the reason that the examiner's combination of Graves and Malone is improper because the references teach away from their combination. It is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination. M.P.E.P. § 2145 Part X. Graves explicitly teaches that that the interaction of players should be incorporated into the presentation of game events. (Graves, col. 3, lines 35-37).

The purpose of Malone, however, is to address the unfairness that results when remote players experience slow connections or interruptions in connections with the central computer. (Malone, col. 3, lines 34-59). To address this problem, Malone does not transmit individual bingo numbers as they are generated. Rather, Malone first determines the entire sequence of bingo numbers and the winning game card prior to any transmission to remote players. (Malone, col. 5, lines 16-35). (Malone, col. 5, lines 16-35). This allows a player on a remote game client computer to win regardless of any connection speed or disconnection with the central computer during play because the player is not required to actively participate in a live bingo game. It would defeat the purpose of Malone to incorporate the interaction of players into the presentation of game events as required by Graves. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the examiner's combination of Malone and Graves is improper.

Finally, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) for at least the reason that Graves teaches away from the claimed invention. The prior art must be considered in its entirety, including disclosures that teach away from the claims. M.P.E.P. § 2141.02 Part VI. Graves expressly teaches away from the transmission of a bingo video compiled from video segments corresponding to a winning sequence of drawn numbers. An explicit objective of Graves is to provide an interactive bingo game with realistic audio visual representation of the game without the necessity of the increased bandwidth for transmitting "still pictures" or "video of an actual game event." (Graves, col. 1, line 59 to col. 2, line 14). According to Graves, increased bandwidth leads to "often unacceptable increases in system costs and complexity." (Graves, col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 2). Graves solves this problem by

storing video segments on remote game client computers instead of transmitting the bingo video segments. (Graves, col. 6, lines 33-43). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Graves teaches away from the transmission of a bingo video compiled from video segments corresponding to a winning sequence of drawn numbers

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed to issue.

Inasmuch as all outstanding issues have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in complete condition for issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance, an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of this response in order to permit early resolution of the same or if he has any questions regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
DORITY & MANNING,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.A.

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Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim F. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Tim F. Williams

Registration No. 47,178

P. O. Box 1449

Greenville, South Carolina 29602-1449

Telephone: (864) 271-1592

Facsimile: (864) 233-7342